

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to be executed by a processor within a network having a client, comprising:

intercepting a connection request within the network, wherein the connection request is initiated from the client to establish a communication conduit between a the client and a server in order to access a specific service on the server;

identifying the communication conduit corresponding to the client, the server, and the specific service;

identifying one or more usage conditions associated with the communication conduit, wherein the one or more usage conditions are defined to permit conditional use of the communication conduit by the client; and

determining whether the one or more usage conditions permit the connection request to be sent to the server, ~~are met, wherein if at least one of the conditions is not met, then the connection request is not sent to the server,~~ and wherein one of the one or more usage conditions that would permit the connection request to be sent includes ~~include~~ a persistent usage condition in which ~~a client to server~~ the communication conduit was previously authorized and a designated time interval for the persistent usage condition has not lapsed.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of forwarding the connection request to the server over the communication conduit when the one or more usage conditions are met.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the ~~determining step~~ comprises identifying the communication conduit comprises identifying a first network address of the server, a second network address of the client, ~~and~~ a port number of the communication conduit, and the specific service associated with the port number.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of sending a plurality of DHCP reply messages for binding a first address of a first host to a second address of a second host, the plurality of DHCP reply messages sent to a third host, the server residing on the first host, and the client residing on the third host.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises (a) obtaining a confirmation from a human, and (b) determining whether the communication conduit was used by the client prior to the client's sending the connection request.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises obtaining a confirmation from a human, wherein the human (a) is associated with the client or (b) has administrative privilege.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises (a) determining whether the client used the communication conduit at any time prior to the client's sending the connection request, (b) determining whether the client used the communication conduit within a specific time-window prior to the client's sending the connection request, or (c) determining whether the client used the communication conduit

within a pre-determined context prior to the client's sending the connection request, wherein the pre-determined context comprises a TCP connection or a session.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether a configuration of the client comprises one or more pre-determined data.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether a repository comprises one or more authorization data pertinent to the connection request.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises authorizing temporary usage of the communication conduit, wherein the temporary usage expires unless administrative approval is obtained (a) within a pre-determined time-window, (b) before the client sends a pre-determined number of messages, or (c) before the client uses a pre-determined number of distinct contexts, wherein a context comprises a TCP connection or a session.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether the connection request is sent within a pre-determined time-window.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the pre-determined time-window comprises one or more weekday peak usage hours.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of discarding the connection request when the one or more usage conditions are not met.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein the ~~determining step~~ comprises identifying the communication conduit comprises identifying a first network address of the client, a second network address of the server, ~~and~~ a port number of the communication conduit, and the specific service associated with the port number.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of logging a result of the determining step.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of notifying a system-administrator of a result of the determining step.

17. (Currently Amended) A method to be executed by a processor within a network having a client, comprising:

intercepting a service-initiation request within the network, wherein the service-initiation request is initiated from the client ~~to establish a communication conduit between a client and a server~~ in order to access a specific service on a server;

identifying a request-type corresponding to the service-initiation request and the specific service;

identifying one or more service conditions associated with the request-type, wherein the one or more service conditions are defined to permit conditional use of the request-type by the client; and

determining whether the one or more ~~usage~~ service conditions permit the service-initiation request to be sent to the server ~~are met, wherein if at least one of the conditions is not met, then the request is not sent to the server, and wherein~~ one of the one or more service conditions that would permit the service-initiation request to be sent include a persistent usage condition in which a ~~client to server conduit~~ the request-type was previously authorized and a designated time interval for the persistent usage condition has not lapsed

~~conditionally sending, based on the one or more service conditions, the service-initiation request from a client to a server over a network.~~

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of forwarding the service-initiation request to the server over the network when the one or more service-conditions are met.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the determining step comprises identifying a first network address of the server and a second network address of the client.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of sending a plurality of DHCP reply messages for binding a first address of a first host to a second address of a second host, the plurality of DHCP reply messages sent to a third host, the server residing on the first host, and the client residing on the third host.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the determining step comprises (a) obtaining a confirmation from a human or (b) determining whether the client sent the service-initiation request within an authorized time window.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether a second service-initiation request of a same request-type as the service-initiation request (a) was forwarded to the server at any time prior to the client's sending the service-initiation request (b) was forwarded to the server within a pre-determined time-window prior to the client's sending the service-initiation request, or (c) was forwarded to the server within a specific context, wherein a context comprises a TCP connection or a session.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether a second service-initiation request of ~~the~~ one or more pre-determined request-types (a) was forwarded to the server at any time prior to the client's sending the service-initiation request, (b) was forwarded to the server within a pre-determined time-window prior to the client's sending the service-initiation request, or (c) was forwarded to the server within a specific context, wherein a context comprises a TCP connection or a session.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of~~ discarding the service-initiation request when the one or more ~~usage~~ service conditions are not met.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the determining step comprises identifying a first network address of the client and a second network address of the server.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of logging a result of the determining step.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of notifying a system-administrator of a result of the determining step.

29. (Currently Amended) A system within a network having a client ~~for the containment of network communication~~, comprising:

a communication proxy for intercepting a connection request within the network, wherein the connection request is initiated from ~~a~~ the client to establish a communication conduit between the client and a server in order to access a specific service on the server, ~~over a communication conduit;~~

wherein the communication proxy comprises one or more processors is programmed to execute one or more sequences of instructions, including:

identifying the communication conduit corresponding to the client, the server, and the specific service;

identifying one or more usage conditions associated with the communication conduit, wherein the one or more usage conditions are defined to permit conditional use of the communication conduit by the client;

determining ~~determine~~ whether the one or more usage conditions permit the connection request to be sent to the server, ~~are met, and wherein if at least one of the conditions is not met, then the connection request is not sent to the server, and wherein~~ one of the one or more usage conditions that would permit the connection request to be sent includes ~~include~~ a persistent usage condition in which ~~a client to server~~ the communication conduit was previously authorized and a designated time interval for the persistent usage condition has not lapsed.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of Claim 29, wherein the one or more sequences of instructions executed by the one or more processors of the communication proxy further include (a) ~~obtains~~ obtaining a confirmation from a human, and (b) ~~determines~~ determining whether the communication conduit was used by the client prior to the client sending the connection request.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 29, wherein the one or more sequences of instructions executed by the one or more processors of the communication proxy further include identifying identifies a first network address of the server, a second network address of the client, ~~and~~ a port number of the communication conduit, and the specific service associated with the port number.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of Claim 31, wherein the one or more sequences of instructions executed by the one or more processors of the communication proxy further include ~~comprising the step of~~ sending a plurality of DHCP reply messages for binding a first address of a first host to a second address of a second host, the plurality of DHCP reply messages sent to a third host, the server residing on the first host, and the client residing on the third host.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 31, wherein the communication proxy resides in a network element, the network element in a communication path between the client and the server.

34. (Original) The system of Claim 31, wherein the communication proxy and the client reside on the same host.

35. (Original) The system of Claim 31, wherein the communication proxy and the server reside on the same host.

36. (Currently Amended) A system within a network having a client ~~for the containment of network communication,~~ comprising:

a service-proxy for intercepting a service-initiation request within the network, wherein the service-initiation request is initiated from a ~~the~~ client in order to access a specific service on ~~to a server, over a network;~~

wherein the service-proxy comprises one or more processors is configured to execute one or more sequences of instructions, including:

identifying a request-type corresponding to the service-initiation request and the specific service;

identifying one or more service-conditions associated with the request-type, wherein the one or more service-conditions are defined to permit conditional use of the request-type by the client;

determining ~~determine~~ whether the one or more service-conditions permit the service-initiation request to be sent to the server are met, and wherein if at least one of the conditions is not met, then the request is not sent to the server, and wherein one of the one or more service-conditions that would permit the service-initiation request to be sent include a persistent usage condition in which a client-to-server conduit the request-type was previously authorized and a designated time interval for the persistent usage condition has not lapsed.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 36, wherein the one or more sequences of instructions executed by the one or more processors of the service-proxy further include (a) ~~obtains~~ obtaining a confirmation of the one or more service-conditions being met from a human or (b) ~~is programmed to determine~~ determining whether the client set the service-initiation request within an authorized time-window.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 36, wherein **the one or more sequences of instructions executed by the one or more processors of** the service-proxy **further include identifying** identifies a first network address of the server and a second network address of the client.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ **system** of Claim 38, **wherein the one or more sequences of instructions executed by the one or more processors** further **include** ~~comprising the step of~~ sending a plurality of DHCP reply messages for binding a first address of a first host to a second address of a second host, the plurality of DHCP reply messages sent to a third host, the server residing on the first host, and the client residing on the third host.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 38, wherein the service-proxy resides in a network element, the network element in a communication path between the client and the server.

41. (Original) The system of Claim 38, wherein the service-proxy and the client reside on the same host.

42. (Original) The system of Claim 38, wherein the service-proxy and the server reside on the same host.

43. (Cancelled)